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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **SAN MANUEL BAND OF MISSION INDIANS CONTRIBUTES \$100,000 FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SKATE PARK FOR OPERATION PHOENIX YOUTH**

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**July 2, 2009, SAN BERNARDINO, CA** – The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians has contributed \$100,000 for the development of a skate park at Speicher Park in the City of San Bernardino. Speicher Park is in the Eastern Operation Phoenix target area, where many of the youth in the surrounding neighborhoods are at-risk and are in need of positive after school activities. Operation Phoenix is Mayor Patrick Morris's multifaceted crime fighting plan for the City of San Bernardino.

In June, the Mayor and Common Council approved a \$500,000 allocation of Community Development Block Grant Recovery funds to the project. Third District Supervisor Neil Derry also committed reprogramming an additional \$98,000 of County funds for this project, as it will serve both City and County constituents.

"Our youth are passionate about skate boarding" said Mayor Patrick Morris, "We need to continue expanding the opportunities for our youth to engage in positive, physical activities and I want to thank the Tribe and County for their assistance in helping make this continuing quest a reality."

James Ramos, San Manuel Tribe Chairman, states that, "with this donation we are making an investment in physical fitness among the youth of this community by encouraging their athleticism and overall physical activity."

Mayor Patrick J. Morris and Chairman Ramos, along with Council Member Wendy McCammack and County Supervisor Neil Derry, will participate in a skate park ground breaking ceremony on July 4, 2009, at 9 A.M., at Speicher Park, 1535 North Arden Street, San Bernardino.

A skate board demonstration featuring championship skate boarder Colin Committo and others, will follow the ground breaking ceremony. The demonstration will include pro and amateur skaters, demo ramps, skate vendors, and free prizes and giveaways. Joining the Parks, Recreation, & Community Services Department for the skate demonstration will be local promoters Major Hype.

